

portion of a second diameter, larger than the first diameter, disposed proximate to the trailing end, and (iii) an unthreaded shaft portion interconnecting the threaded leading end and the threaded trailing end portions; a proximal through-hole configured to accommodate a locking screw, extending along a straight second longitudinal axis between a first opening, in a first area of an outer periphery of the tubular member proximate to the trailing end, and a second opening, in a second area of the outer periphery of the tubular member distal to the trailing end, with the second longitudinal axis intersecting the first longitudinal axis at an angle of other than 90 degrees.

2. (Amended) An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 1, wherein the proximal through-hole is adapted to accommodate a 4 mm locking screw.

4. (Amended) An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 1, further comprising: [another] a distal through-hole configured to accommodate another locking screw, extending along a straight third longitudinal axis between a third opening, in a third area of the outer periphery of the tubular member, and a fourth opening, in a fourth area of the outer periphery of the tubular member, the third and the fourth areas being proximate to the leading end of the tubular member, with the third longitudinal axis intersecting the first longitudinal axis.

6. (Amended) An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 4, wherein the [other] distal through-hole is adapted to accommodate a 4 mm locking screw.

7. (Amended) An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 4, wherein a cross section of the [other] distal through-hole, taken along the third longitudinal axis, has a first dimension in a direction parallel to the first longitudinal axis and a second dimension, smaller than the first dimension, in direction perpendicular to the first longitudinal axis.

Please add claims 11 – 20 as follows:

11. An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 1, further comprising a locking screw capable of being passed over a guide wire into the proximal through hole.

12. An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 4, further comprising a locking screw capable of being passed over a guide wire into the distal through hole.

13. An intramedullary lockable compression screw for stabilizing a joint in a body, comprising: an elongated tubular member extending along a substantially straight first longitudinal axis between a leading end and a trailing end, and including (i) a threaded leading end portion of a first diameter disposed proximate to the leading end, (ii) a threaded trailing end portion of a second diameter, larger than the first diameter, disposed proximate to the trailing end, and (iii) an unthreaded shaft portion interconnecting the threaded leading end and the threaded trailing end portions; and a distal through-hole configured to accommodate a locking

screw, extending along a straight second longitudinal axis between a first opening in a first area of the outer periphery of the tubular member, and a second opening, in a second area of the outer periphery of the tubular member, the first and the second areas being proximate to the leading end of the tubular member, with the second longitudinal axis intersecting the first longitudinal axis.

14. An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 13, wherein the third longitudinal axis intersects the first longitudinal axis at a 90 degree angle.

15. An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 13, wherein the distal through-hole is adapted to accommodate a 4 mm locking screw.

16. An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 13, wherein a cross section of the distal through-hole, taken along the third longitudinal axis, has a first dimension in a direction parallel to the first longitudinal axis and a second dimension, smaller than the first dimension, in direction perpendicular to the first longitudinal axis.

17. An intramedullary lockable compression screw according to claim 16, wherein the first dimension is approximately 1 inch.

18. An intramedullary lockable compression screw for stabilizing a joint in a body, comprising: an elongated tubular member extending along a substantially straight first longitudinal axis between a leading end and a trailing end, and including (i) a threaded leading end portion of a first diameter disposed proximate to the leading end, (ii) a threaded trailing end portion of a second diameter, larger than the first diameter, disposed proximate to the trailing end, and (iii) an unthreaded shaft portion interconnecting the threaded leading end and the threaded trailing end portions; and a proximal through-hole configured to accommodate a locking screw, extending along a straight second longitudinal axis between a first opening, in a first area of an outer periphery of the tubular member proximate to the trailing end, and a second opening, in a second area of the outer periphery of the tubular member distal to the trailing end, with the second longitudinal axis intersecting the first longitudinal axis at an angle of other than 90 degrees and a distal through-hole configured to accommodate another locking screw, extending along a straight third longitudinal axis between a third opening, in a third area of the outer periphery of the tubular member, and a fourth opening, in a fourth area of the outer periphery of the tubular member, the third and the fourth areas being proximate to the leading end of the tubular member, with the third longitudinal axis intersecting the first longitudinal axis wherein the elongated tubular member has a sleeve portion extending from the trailing end, away from the leading end; and the sleeve portion is aligned with the through-hole and configured to guide the locking screw into the first opening.